Title: Condemned the behaviour of the participants during Parliamentary Proceedings the incident of 11th December,1998 and refer the privilege notices to Privilege Committee.

14.00 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it may be recalled that on the 11th of December, 1998, when the House proceedings commenced, an acrimonious situation arose in the context of the Bandh that had been launched by certain political parties to demonstrate against the economic policies of the Government and in the context of the Women's Reservation Bill.

Several hon. Members of the House committed transgression into the official area, that is, the Well of the House, and also menacingly pushed forward towards the Speaker's Chair, shouting slogans. In the process, seemingly physical assaults amongst the Members also occurred.

This behaviour of the Members is not merely a violation of the established Rules of Procedure of the House, but is also a serious breach of the solemn pledge made by this entire House during its special Golden Jubilee Session, not to speak of the criminality of the seeming assaults.

The incident has also been, prima facie, in the nature of a gross violation of the privilege of the House in that it has seriously detracted from the dignity of the House. Pursuant to the incident, certain privilege notices have also been received from some Members.

Incidents of this sort strike at the root of the very credibility of this House and its survival and, therefore, are dangerous for our democratic polity.

In the circumstances, I strongly condemn the incident of 11th December, 1998 and the behaviour of the participants in the incident.

I shall also refer the privilege notices to the Committee of Privileges with direction to give a time-bound report.